



For Immediate Release
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Blue Dog Statement on Senate Health Care Reform Legislation

Washington, DC - Today, **Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD)**, Blue Dog Co-Chair for Administration, issued the following statement after Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus introduced the “America’s Health Future Act.”

“Today, the Senate took an important step forward as Congress moves to send responsible health care reform legislation to the President’s desk. The draft released by Chairman Baucus addresses two central goals of the Blue Dog Coalition and the Administration: It is deficit neutral, and it takes real steps to bring down the cost of health care over the long term. Meeting these standards, also set forth by the President, is critical to reining in deficits and protecting our economy for future generations of Americans. I applaud Chairman Baucus and his colleagues in the Senate for their progress today and look forward to working together as we move to make health care reform a reality.”

The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.